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HEALTH
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Rural District of Rugby.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1942,

BY

H. GIBBONS WARD, M.D., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts.

Leamington Spa:

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1, Milverton Hill,
Leamington Spa.

November, 1943.

To the Rugby Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Fairholme, and Gentlemen,

Herewith the Report for 1942; it is regretted that the Report should be delayed.

As instructed by the Ministry of Health, the Report is again only a short statement of fact. All available information is being kept for record and can be produced.

With many thanks for much kindness on the part of the Council and my colleagues.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GIBBONS WARD,
Medical Officer of Health.

Rugby Rural District.

A. Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1942	—
Birth Rate	17.2
Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total births	19
Death Rate	10.2
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth { From Sepsis ...	—
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth { ,, other causes	—
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—	
All Infants per 1,000 live births	43
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	42
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	59
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	1

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

Laboratory Facilities.—Bacteriological examinations by Birmingham University :—

	Positive.		Negative.		Total.
*Diphtheria	17	...	44	...	61
Enteric Fever	—	...	—	...	—
Tuberculosis	—	...	7	...	7
					68

* These numbers include swabs from the Joint Isolation Hospital at Harborough Magna.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

1. (i) Water Supply.—Connections to private houses continue to be made in the Northern and the Southern schemes.

19 samples of water were examined, 15 chemically and 4 bacteriologically ; 1 was safe, 2 reasonably safe, 9 suspicious, and 7 unsafe.

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage.—There has been no change. Contemplated schemes are held up.

2. (i) Rivers and Streams.—No complaints were received during the year; no action was necessary.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.—Whenever and wherever possible conversions to the water carriage system are effected. During 1942 15 privy-middens, and 2 pail closets were abolished, and more sanitary conditions provided.

(ii) Public Cleansing.—4 vehicles of modern type are now in use and 25 parishes are scavenged by direct labour. Labour difficulties and illness, combined with the Salvage campaign, have caused interruptions in the regular collections at times; on the whole, however, the results have been good.

(v) Camping Sites.—There are only two camping sites in the District; these are reasonably well maintained.

D. HOUSING.

Full particulars of the usual table have been compiled and are being kept for Record purposes.

1. *General Observations.*—With the cessation of building the need for houses continues to grow. Existing houses are becoming overcrowded and some people have resorted to residing in temporary buildings, caravans, etc. With the limited staff available it is not possible to maintain supervision over these temporary buildings in a scattered rural district. This will be a very real and urgent problem after the war. The solution of this problem will entail much planning and the provision of large financial assistance. In addition, there are many people from bombed-out towns living in temporary shelter in this area; this is allowed by the District Council on sympathetic grounds alone. Twenty-one houses which were in clearance areas have been allowed to be re-occupied under the provisions of Circular 2156.

It is not practicable to take any action regarding overcrowding for obvious reasons.

Though one is not expected to comment on prevailing conditions, yet I think it is permissible to record one's opinion that of all the projects of reconstruction, Housing is the one most basically important. All other schemes of reconstruction will fail miserably unless the people are housed under reasonable conditions.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(*a*) *Milk Supply.*—Inspections have continued and improvements have been obtained. Ten cowsheds have been modernised during the year.

For chemical analysis 48 samples were submitted and all save one were genuine. The one sample had 1% of added water ; later samples were found to be genuine.

Five samples submitted for the phosphatase test were satisfactory. 42 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination. Three were lost in transit ; of the remainder 22 were satisfactory and 17 were unsatisfactory.

40 samples of Churn Washings were submitted for investigation ; 35 gave good results.

(*b*) *Meat Inspection.*—Your two Sanitary Inspectors maintain close supervision of slaughterhouses, meat shops and vans.

Bakehouses.—These were, as in the past, generally maintained in a satisfactory condition.

VI. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1934.

	Smallpox	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1935 ...	—	16	71	—	11	—	3
1936 ...	—	27	74	1	29	—	1
1937 ...	—	23	62	—	40	—	8
1938 ...	—	8	27	—	35	—	2
1939 ...	—	14	43	—	23	—	3
1940 ...	—	21	44	1	24	—	2
1941 ...	—	7	30	2	25	—	2
1942 ...	—	2	17	—	17	—	7

Reference to Table III. will give the age distribution of the cases notified during 1942.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—The campaign for the immunisation of school children commenced in 1941, and up to the end of 1942, 1,440 children had been treated in the schools and 250 either privately or at Infant Welfare Centres, making a total of 1,690.

School Closures.

Burton Hastings. 14th to 27th April. Measles.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
Age—Periods	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
5	—	1	2	2	—	1	—	—
15	3	2	1	1	1	2	—	—
25	2	4	—	1	1	1	—	—
35	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
45	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	11	7	3	6	5	5	—	—

Treatment.—15 cases were admitted to Sanatorium during the year, and 17 were discharged.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

A copy of this Report has been received and kept for reference.

The summary of work done will be found in Table I.

Table I.

RUGBY RURAL DISTRICT.

Summary of Sanitary Work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department during the year 1942.

	Inspections and Observations made.	Notices served. Statutory.	Notices served. Informal.	Nuisances Abated after Notices.
Swimming Pool visits	4	—	—	—
Dwelling Houses and Schools ...	549	4	42	59
Roadside Cafes and Restaurants	31	—	1	1
Dairies and Cowsheds	802	—	22	539
Bakehouses	60	—	20	20
Slaughter Houses, Meat Shops & Vans	516	—	—	—
Canal Boats	22	—	—	—
Ashpits and Privies	28	—	27	14
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	16	—	3	16
Water-closets	16	—	8	8
House Drainage	128	2	16	21
Water Supply	309	12	24	45
Pigsties and Stables	30	—	1	—
Offensive Trades	12	—	—	—
Smoke Obvervations	1	—	1	1
Moveable Dwellings	113	—	2	1
Verminous Houses	67	—	5	8
Pails provided	11	—	11	41
Ashes accommodation	135	2	29	34
Shops	174	—	—	—
Interviews and Special Visits ...	807	—	—	—
Visits in connection with Sampling	43	—	—	—
Public Conveniences	25	—	—	—
Rats and Mice	42	—	—	20
Visits to Refuse Tips	46	—	—	—
Complaints	77	—	75	72
Watercourses	24	—	1	1
Totals	4,088	20	288	901

	cwt.	lbs.
Seizures and Surrenders of Unwholesome Food ...	6	21
Samples of Food taken for Analysis	98	
Ditto of Food found adulterated	1	
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	19	
Ditto of Water condemned as unfit for use ...	7	

Precautions against Infectious Disease.

Lots of Infected Bedding Disinfected or Destroyed	101
Houses Disinfected after cases of Infectious Disease	152

LESLIE R. NUTTING,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Table II

RUGBY RURAL DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1942 and Previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births. Nett.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District. Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1936	18,200	322	17.7	17	53	203	11.1
1937	18,310	294	16.0	12	41	219	12.0
1938	15,570	282	17.3	24	85	194	12.0
1939	—	—	15.1	—	39	—	11.6
1940	—	—	12.6	—	56	—	11.9
1941	—	—	16.5	—	48	—	12.0
1942	—	—	17.2	—	43	—	10.2

Table III.

RUGBY RURAL DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1942.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.								
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.		
Small-pox	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Plague	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	2	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	...
Erysipelas	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Scarlet Fever	17	.....	1	11	4	1	.....	.....	15	.....
Typhus Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Enteric Fever	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pneumonia	17	...	3	1	3	3	6	1	.....	7
Malaria	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dysentery	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...	5	.....	.....	3	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Poliomyelitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	5	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Polio-Encephalitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	18	.....	.....	1	5	8	4	...	.....	9
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	9	.....	1	4	2	2	.....	.....	.....	1
Totals	75	5	7	21	16	15	10	1	16	18

Table IV.

RUGBY RURAL DISTRICT.

Causes of Death during the Year 1942.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes	99	80
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—
2 Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	—
3 Scarlet Fever	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	—	—
5 Diphtheria	—	—
6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	5	4
7 Other Forms of Tuberculosis	—	1
8 Syphilitic Diseases	—	1
9 Influenza	2	2
10 Measles	—	—
11 Ac. Polio-Myel and Polio-Enceph. ...	—	—
12 Ac. Infant Enceph.	1	—
13 Cancer of B. Cav. and Oesoph (M.) Uterus (F.)	2	1
14 Cancer of Stomach and Duod.	1	2
15 Cancer of Breast	—	—
16 Cancer, other Sites	4	11
17 Diabetes	2	—
18 Intra Cran. Vasc. Lesions...	8	9
19 Heart Disease	24	21
20 Other Dis. Circ. Sys.	—	—
21 Bronchitis	4	4
22 Pneumonia	4	3
23 Other Resp. Diseases	—	4
24 Ulcer of Stomach and Duod.	1	1
25 Diarrhoea (under 2 years)...	1	—
26 Appendicitis	1	—
27 Other Digestive Diseases	3	4
28 Nephritis	5	1
29 Puer. and Post Abort Sepsis	—	—
30 Other Maternal Causes	—	—
31 Premature Birth	2	2
32 Con. Mal., Birth Inj., etc....	3	2
33 Suicide	1	—
34 Road Traffic Accidents	6	—
35 Other Violent Causes	5	1
36 All Other Causes	13	6